



## Big Sky Inauguration Ceremony

A special inauguration ceremony was held in Boise, Idaho to commemorate Big Sky Airlines new service to Boise which began on May 5, 2002. The company now operates two non-stop round trips, Monday through Friday, between Billings, Montana and Boise, Idaho and reduced weekend service.

In Billings, flights will also provide connecting service from ten additional Montana communities to and from Boise. Those Montana points are Missoula, Helena, Kalispell, Miles City, Sidney, Glendive, Glasgow, Wolf Point, Lewistown, and Havre.

Big Sky's schedule is designed to accommodate same day business travel between Billings and Boise as well as provide new alternative connecting opportunities in Boise with Big Sky's marketing partner Horizon Air. Horizon provides non-stop service from Boise to several cities in California and Oregon.

Boise is the 27<sup>th</sup> city served by Big Sky. For reservations or flight information, please call Big Sky at 1-800-237-7788 or your local, professional travel consultant.



*A ribbon cutting ceremony was held during the inauguration ceremony. Pictured are (l-r) Brent Coles, Boise Mayor; Debbie Alke, Montana Aeronautics Administrator; Charles Tooley, Billings Mayor; Gary Mahn, Director, Chamber of Commerce; Craig Denney, Executive Vice President & COO, Big Sky Airlines; and Kim Champney, President & CEO, Big Sky Airlines.*



*Big Sky Airline employees (l-r) Bria Hanson, Linda Sackman, Angie Johnson, Mark Tronrud & Craig Denney share in the celebration. Linda, Angie & Mark traveled from Montana to Idaho to work with and train Boise station personnel handling Big Sky flights.*



# Administrator's Column

**A BLAST FROM THE PAST:** I'd like to share two e-mails that were received on June 4 from Ted Mathis, Gallatin Field Airport Director and Ron Mercer Helena Airport Director. Ted said, "Thirty years ago today, I pulled my 17 ft. camp trailer up in front of the West Yellowstone Terminal building, went in and introduced myself as their new Airport Manager. At that time, Western operated four flights per day with their brand new 737s and Frontier operated two Convair 580s. As I recall, the Western flights went - SLC, IDA, WYS, BTM, GTF, BTM, WYS, IDA, SLC. Talk about a milk run. Frontier flew - DEN, JAC, WYS, JAC, DEN. We had a four-foot fence in front of the terminal and we left the gate open. It's been great." And from Ron, "That was the good old days - I was working for Northwest Airlines (if we were not on strike that month) in the old terminal in Helena and we had a NON-STOP to Billings which was a big deal back then. I actually started with NWA in 1966 (1965 on a \$3.00 per flight contract to load baggage) as a full-time agent at \$406 a month. Thanks for sharing the memories Ted and Ron. It was fun to read and for me to reminisce back 30 years to my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year at North Central Junior High in Butte!

**SENATE PRESSES FOR SECURITY MANDATE UPDATE:** Senate lawmakers pressured DOT Secretary Norman Mineta and TSA Chief John Magaw for updates on how they plan to meet congressional deadlines in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act including how Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding would be used for bomb-screening installations. Members of the Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing with Mineta and Magaw, questioning them on issues such as who was going to pay for the massive installation of explosive detection systems (EDS) and explosive trace-detection (ETD) machines. According to Mineta, \$600-\$700 million in AIP funds will be used for security expenses such as installing the machines. He justified this expenditure from the aviation trust fund by saying that airports have explained that construction will be needed to install the machines and

DOT made the call to use AIP while demand in air travel is down. Mineta maintained that DOT is still sensitive to delays and congestion, but admitted its focus has shifted to security. Airports are concerned that using AIP money for security will eliminate some airport projects and are pushing Congress to make non-AIP money available for installation. Mineta gave new estimates of projected staffing levels for TSA: 21,500 screeners to operate EDS equipment and overall TSA staffing levels at 51,232 in 2002, growing to 65,000-67,000 in 2003.

**GA FEARS FAA CAN'T MEET OWN DEADLINE:** The FAA's decision to scrap a phased-in schedule for aircraft minimum separation standards is raising concerns from general aviation groups who fear that the agency does not have the manpower to accommodate its own December 2004 deadline. FAA released its long-anticipated proposal to reduce vertical separation minimums (RVSM) from 2000' to 1000' for aircraft operating between flight levels 290 through 410 over the contiguous 48 states of the US, Alaska and portions of the Gulf of Mexico. Transportation Department officials hailed the proposal as a tool to increase route and altitude availability, saving time and fuel. Only RVSM-compliant aircraft will be permitted to fly in RVSM airspace. Many associations question FAA's ability to certify the 9,000+ aircraft that require RVSM approval in time for implementation in late 2004. At the FAA's current rate of approval of 3,000 per year, the industry will need 200% of the FAA's current engineering capacity through mid-2005 just to meet RVSM requirements. These associations are lobbying for a phased-in implementation plan, which would implement RVSM domestically initially only between FL350 and 390. Implementing RVSM below FL350 before December 2006 will unjustifiably exclude a significant number of operators. FAA has approved RVSM aircraft engineering packages for "all major aircraft types used in either airline or general aviation operations." Operators without RVSM approval after December 2004 will be allowed to operate at and below FL280.



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# Upcoming Events

**June 7-9, 2002** – 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Homesteader Days, Hot Springs. Participants are welcomed and encouraged to fly in to this event. For further information call Don Theeler (406) 741-5040.

**June 8, 2002** – Laurel Airport Annual Fly-In & Airport Dedication, Pancake Breakfast sponsored by EAA, Young Eagles Activities, Airport Dedication, Steak Dinner & Dance. For further information contact Pete Whiting (406) 656-1836 or email [pesal@prodigy.net](mailto:pesal@prodigy.net).

**June 8, 2002** – Young Eagle activities Glacier Park International Airport starting at 11:00 a.m.

**June 10, 2002** – Aeronautics Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. – West Yellowstone, Brandin' Iron Inn.

**June 13, 2002** – Montana Seaplane Pilots Association Meeting at KwaTaqNuk in Polson. Meeting will start at 11:30 a.m., a no-host lunch will be held at 12:00 p.m., meeting will continue after lunch. For further information or to RSVP call Joanne (406) 745-0969.

**June 15, 2002** – Grand opening of R. Preston Nash – Museum of Mountain Flying new hangar. Tickets on sale in Missoula at Rockin' Rudy's, Worden's, Southgate Mall or phone (406) 549-8488.

**June 15, 2002** – Fly-In Ferndale Airport starting at 9:00 a.m. Airport rummage sale, flour bombing, barbeque.

**June 16, 2002** – Annual Father's Day Poorboy Sourdough Pancake Breakfast Feed, Bass's Beacon Star Airfield, Moore, MT.

**June 22-23, 2002** – Flathead hangar will host the Spotted Bear/Meadow Creek Airstrip Work Weekend focusing this year on Meadow Creek. The USFS is very supportive of the efforts to help maintain these airports. For more information contact Perry Brown (406) 892-3996 or [pbrown@digisys.net](mailto:pbrown@digisys.net).

**June 29, 2002** – Stan Read Estate Auction – Hamilton Airport, 10:00 a.m. For further information phone (406) 327-7995 or (406) 538-7616.

**July 4 – 7, 2002** – Fort Peck Fly-In, camping at the Fort Peck airport (motel close by if needed), boating, fishing, water-skiing. Fort Peck Theater and much more. Contact Lanny Hanson for information (406) 228-4848.

**July 6, 2002** – The annual MPA North Central Hangar Fly-In breakfast and Big Kid Toy Show will be held at the Big Sandy Airport. Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Spot landing, flour bombing, young eagle rides and many other activities are scheduled.

**July 12-14, 2002** – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

**July 13, 2002** – Ravalli County Pilots' Association is holding a fly-in pancake breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. at North Star Aviation hangar, north end of the airport.

**July 20-21, 2002** – Heart of the Rockies Air Show, Helena Regional Airport special acts including Blue Angels, Greg Poe, Bill Stein, Bud Granley, Gordon Bowman-Jones & Chuck Haynes Racing. Ticket prices: Free-Under 9 years of age, \$8-in advance, \$10-at the gate, \$30-advance family pass (2 adults-must be family members, 3 minors under 16). Tickets will be available at various locations throughout Helena or by calling the Helena Chamber at 1-800-743-5362, tickets ordered by phone will be available at the air show (a \$2.50 credit card processing fee will apply for phone orders). For further information phone the Helena Chamber or check out the website [www.helenaairshow.com](http://www.helenaairshow.com).

**July 20-21, 2002** – Vectren Dayton Air Show presented by Kroger. Website [www.airshowdayton.com](http://www.airshowdayton.com).

**August 1-4, 2002** – Montana Antique Airplane Association annual fly-in, Three Forks Airport-Pogreba Field. Breakfast, steak dinner & dance, display of antique aircraft. For more information contact Bob Green (406) 285-6949.

**August 9-11, 2002** – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Splash In – Fly In – Stillwater Landing. For information contact Bill Montgomery (360) 629-7453 or (425) 750-6100 (cell), summer Montana # (406) 881-2236. Website: [www2.Whidbey.net/stilwlnl](http://www2.Whidbey.net/stilwlnl).

**August 11, 2002** – Seeley Lake Flying Club is hosting a fly-in pancake breakfast at the Seeley Lake Airport. For further information contact Wade Cebulski (406) 677-3219.

**August 17-18, 2002** – Montana Fun Weekend – Cut Bank Airport. Contacts: Dennis Lenoir (406) 873-2221, Dick Ebert (406) 873-5738, or Roy Nollkamper at (406) 873-2137/5566.

**August 24, 2002** – Polson Fly-In & Steak Fry/Pot Luck. Please bring hot dish or dessert. For more information call Tom Seabase at (406) 883-9392 or email Tom at [aeroworks@aeroworks.net](mailto:aeroworks@aeroworks.net).

**August 31 – Sept. 2, 2002** – Cleveland National Air Show presented by Discount Drug Mart. Website: [www.clevelandairshow.com](http://www.clevelandairshow.com).

**September 13-15, 2002** – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic – Kalispell.

**October 11-13, 2002** – Springfield Air Rendezvous 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Show, Capital Airport, Springfield, IL. Featuring the Canadian Snowbirds Team. For additional information, contact the air show office at (217) 789-4400 or visit website: [www.springfield-il.com/airshow](http://www.springfield-il.com/airshow).



# Augusta Airport Featured In Film

The Augusta Airport will be featured in an upcoming independent film “Northfork”. After several cancellations of the scene due to unpredictable spring weather conditions filming finally got underway on May 8.

Although it’s considered a low-budget film, “Northfork” features a star-studded cast including Anthony Edwards, Daryl Hannah, Christopher Walken, Nick Nolte, James Woods and Peter Coyote. “Northfork” is the third in a trilogy of original Americana screenplays by identical twins Mark and Michael Polish, who spent part of their childhood in the Flathead Valley.

Set in 1955, “Northfork” is about the residents of a small Montana community forced to move their homes to make way for a new dam. It is about the last few days of evacuating the town, there are three or four houses left that will not move. The movie contains gypsies, a priest and a dying orphan named Irwin, played by 8-year-old Duel Forest Farnes from Ennis. The scene filmed at the Augusta airport includes a “Beech 18” taking off at sunset. Aeropacific Corporation out of Idaho Falls, ID owns the aircraft.

Preceded by “Jackpot” and “Twin Falls Idaho,” “Northfork” will hit the theaters in the fall of 2003.



*Before flying back to New York to film a spot on the “Today Show” Anthony Edwards took time to sign autographs and pose for a few pictures. The girls, (l-r) Danielle Kautz, Shannon Gleich & Kelsey Crawford were thrilled to meet Anthony and were impressed with the time he took to visit with each one of them.*

*Duel Farnes of Ennis is enjoying his opportunity to be the “star” of a movie, what an accomplishment for an 8-year-old! He was able to finish up one of his favorite sports wrestling, and the company provided a tutor from Great Falls so he didn’t fall behind in his schoolwork during the filming.*



*Darryl Hannah plays a gypsy in “Northfork” she is a friend of the writers Michael & Mark Polish and also performed in their 2001 film “Jackpot”.*



*The “Beech 18” which was a beautiful aircraft had to wait for the runway to be plowed before landing in Augusta. The Augusta airport is a turf runway that has served the community well; the Aeronautics Division acquired it about five years ago from the Helena Regional Airport Authority. The airport has a beacon, tie-down area and an outhouse.*

# Flight Across America To Honor 9/11

Pilots from across the country will launch a month-long Flight Across America to honor victims of September 11, 2001. Starting August 11, 2002, from the initial launch point at Paine Field Airport in Everett, Washington, the Flight Across America will link with flights from airports across the country to culminate in New York City on September 11, 2002.

“It is an opportunity for pilots to respond to September 11<sup>th</sup>,” said Molly Peebles, Flight Across America Executive Director. “Last year, we witnessed aviation being used as a tool for incredible destruction. This year, we pilots have an opportunity to reclaim our skies by using aviation as a tool for great inspiration and bringing people together across the country to do something that has never before been done.”

Peebles, a Washington State pilot, created the Flight Across America. The event was born of her newly discovered passion for flight and a desire to make a difference after 9/11. “Paine Field is excited about Molly’s program,” commented Airport Director Dave Waggoner, “we’re very impressed with her leadership and drive to bring it to fruition.”

Pilots will volunteer for Flight Across America and plan their own flights. They can choose to fly a short local flight, or longer flights across states or even coast to coast. The goal is for at least one aircraft to take off and land from every airport in the country, forming a web of flight paths that blanket the country over the event’s 32 days, ending in New York City on September 11, 2002.

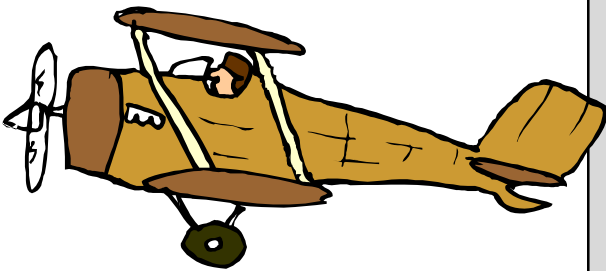
Each state flag will be flown by a Flight Across America participating pilot from the flag’s state of origin to New York. On September 11, 2002, fifty State flags will be delivered to New York to symbolize a nation that has come together to make the Flight Across America event happen and to express solidarity as we remember the events and honor the 9/11 anniversary.

The Flight Across America is also about connecting the country through flight. The coordination and documentation of the flights will be assisted through the Flight Across America Web Site at <http://www.flightacrossamerica.com>. Pilots can register their flights at this web site, and anyone can visit it to learn more and to volunteer.

During the course of this month-long celebration of flight, airports across the country will be hosting Flight Across America Fly-In Picnics. Pilots will be encouraged to make these events their destination. People from the community will be invited as well as local media. These picnics will be an opportunity for pilots to share their passion for aviation, how 9/11 and the restrictions imposed afterwards impacted them and their desire to preserve our freedom to fly.

## New Fixed Base Operator

A new FBO, North Star Aviation Inc., has opened at Ravalli County Airport (6S5) in Hamilton, Montana. Owners Steve and Michelle Wolters purchased and remodeled a large hangar on the north end of the runway at the west edge of the GA parking ramp. Service includes Mobile Jet-A and 100LL, available daylight to dusk and on-call; all major brand oil products; 24-hour lounge with phone, restrooms, kitchen, shower, TV; Dollar Rental Cars; pilots supplies; courtesy car; overnight hangar storage on request; fax machine; computer internet access; and a grand view of the runway and sapphire mountains! In the recent past, fuel availability has sometimes been a problem at the Ravalli County Airport. North Star promises to always have a good supply of fuel on hand, and to greet every customer with their renowned Montana hospitality.



## Seeley Lake – Montana’s Mountain Majesty

The Seeley Lake airport is featured in the 2002 summer edition of *Pilot Getaways*. The article “*Montana’s Mountain Majesty*” is written by John Kounis with spectacular photos by George Kounis and offers suggestions on “Flying There”, “History”, “What to Do”, “Where to Stay” and “Where to Eat”.

Mr. Kounis writes, “Your experience of Seeley Lake will likely begin with a friendly greeting from a local, even if your dog has just barged into his home. Other high points are pure and perfect moments flying down the Swan River Valley, hiking in the crisp mountain air, or paddling along a lake or river. You may opt for a deep wilderness adventure, sleeping with one eye open for grizzlies, or you could snuggle into cozy bedding in an antique-furnished cabin. Either way, you shouldn’t miss Lindey’s great steaks or the huckleberry ice cream.”

This article is sure to enhance tourism in the state just by the pictures alone. You can pick up a copy of the summer edition of *Pilot Getaways* at your local bookstore or to subscribe phone (818) 241-1890.



# Tool Scholarships Awarded

Two Helena College of Technology students, Jud Kowalski and Timothy Mundaniohl were recently awarded \$400 tool scholarships in recognition of their outstanding curriculum activities. Jud was raised in Western Montana, about 30 miles west of Missoula. He served four years active duty in the US Navy. He was an engine mechanic on F/A 18 Hornets, performing scheduled maintenance and troubleshooting. He chose to continue aviation maintenance as a career because he enjoys working on aircraft and likes to travel. When Jud graduates he plans on working for aircraft maintenance contractors, corporate companies, or any airline company to get him started while continuing to see the world. He thanked the Division for accepting him for this scholarship and helping him get started in his dreams for the future.

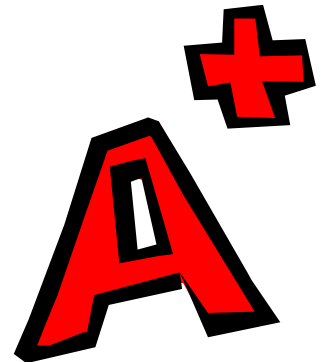
Tim is a thirty-two year old married father of four, he moved to Helena six years ago from Erie Pennsylvania where he grew up on a dairy farm. He enjoys spending time with his family in the outdoors hunting, fishing and going camping. Tim started out driving truck but after an injury he chose a career in the aviation industry. Over the last two years he has learned a lot of the basics so that he will enter the field with a good understanding of what it takes to be a top notch A&P. He graduated this year and looks forward to his future in aviation. Tim really appreciates the scholarship, as it will help him with the endeavors that are in front of him.



*Pictured (l-r) are Rena Smith, Instructor, Jud Kowalski, Tim Mundaniohl and Brent Vetter, Instructor.*

## School Tours On The Rise!

More and more teachers are taking advantage of the school tours and young eagle rides offered by the Montana Aeronautics Division. Last month St. Andrews Middle School students from Helena and Radley School 1<sup>st</sup> graders from East Helena toured the Division. St. Andrews students loved the Young Eagle Rides (even on a blustery day) and Radley students were proud to receive ribbons and pins for their awesome entries in the 2002 Aviation Awareness Art contest.



# Rocky Hires New President

The Rocky Mountain College Board of Trustees has hired Dr. Thomas R. Oates, current president and chief executive officer of Spalding University, in Louisville, KY, to be Rocky Mountain College's eighth president, succeeding Dr. Arthur H. DeRosier, Jr., who will retire from the presidency June 30, 2002. Dr. Oates will assume office on July 1, 2002.

According to Dorothy Metz, president of the presidential search committee and former chairman of the RMC Board of Trustees, Dr. Oates was a finalist in a field of 15 candidates who were selected from a large pool of applicants by the college's presidential-search consulting firm, Perry and Associates. "The search was extensive and the candidates applied from many areas of academe and private sector," says Mertz.

As president and chief executive officer of Spalding University, Dr. Oates is responsible for all aspects of university operations, including budgeting, fund raising and

strategic planning. He began his presidency at Spalding University in 1994. During his tenure there, the university has increased enrollment from 1,100 to over 1,600 students; has successfully completed a capital campaign; has increase faculty salaries and staff compensation; and has addressed significant infrastructure needs of the campus.

Prior to serving as president of Spalding University, Dr. Oates was director of the United States Operations and Academic Programs for the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships, at Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C. This program, with a budget of \$15 million, provided scholarships for needy students in Central America and the Caribbean to study in U.S. colleges and universities. Dr. Oates was responsible for the oversight of all aspects of program design for over 700 students at over 30 colleges and universities in the U.S. From 1985 to 1989, he was campus dean for the University of Wisconsin

Center, in Richland, WI. From 1981 to 1985, he was chairman and associate professor in the Department of Journalism at Saint Michael's College, in Winooski, VT. From 1972 to 1981, he was director of the Webster College Media Center, in St. Louis, and was founder and director of the media/journalism degree program at Webster College.

"I am enormously enthusiastic about the upcoming move to Billings to serve as president of Rocky Mountain College," says Dr. Oates. "Rocky Mountain College has a very bright future ahead of it, and the Billings area is a vibrant and exciting place. As a result of the outstanding work of the board of trustees and the vision of Dr. Arthur DeRosier, Rocky Mountain College is in an excellent position to gain further national and international recognition for its exceptional programs and faculty. My wife, Peg, and I are honored to be part of the bright future of both Rocky Mountain College and Billings."

## Pilot Awareness of Body Dehydration

The educational process should start now as the heat of the summer approaches and the chances increase for pilots to become dehydrated with increased risk for incidents and accidents. There are three stages of heat exhaustion. Transition from one to the other can be very evident, hardly noticeable or not evident at all.

Heat Stress (body temperature, 99.5-100F) reduces:

- Performance, dexterity, and coordination
- Ability to make quick decisions
- Alertness
- Visual capabilities
- Caution and caring

Heat exhaustion (101-105F) symptoms:

- Fatigue
- Nausea/vomiting
- Giddiness
- Cramps
- Rapid breathing
- Fainting

Heat stroke (105F) symptoms

- Body's heat control mechanism stops working
- Mental confusion
- Disorientation
- Bizarre behavior
- Coma



Source: FAAViationNews

# FW&P Says “No” To Airstrip

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has made its final decision regarding the reopening of the Ming Bar airstrip and it wasn't favorable. Mike Aderhold, Regional Supervisor released his decision and denied the Montana Pilots' Association request to reopen the airstrip on the Ming Bar above the Missouri River.

Even though the Recreational Airstrip Committee had conceded on every restriction the department had asked for; day use only, use only during the months of June, July, and August, no commercial or helicopter use, the request was denied. The Montana Aeronautics Division was also willing to accept the airstrip into the state recreational airstrip system.

Written comment amounted to 332 individual responses, of which 318 were received in a timely fashion and were included in the analysis. Two hundred seventy one (271) responses endorsed the “No Action” alternative of the draft EA; 48 respondents favored opening an airstrip with the use dates from May 15 to November 30 or use dates of June 1 to August 31. Further analysis of comment follows:

Comment received late (post April 30; not considered)	13
Comment opposed to airstrip development (support “No Action”)	271
-included 3 nonresident responses, balance were Montana	
-included 19 organizations and 251 individual responses	
Comment favoring airstrip use and development	48
-included 9 non resident responses, balance were Montana	
-included 3 organizations and 45 individual responses	
<b>Total comment received</b>	<b>332</b>

Further information can be obtained at the Montana Pilots' Association website: [www.montanapilots.org](http://www.montanapilots.org).



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## June, 2002

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